

REMARKS

Claims 11-13, 15, and 16 have been allowed in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Lambertson for the indication that Claims 11-13, 15, and 16 have been allowed. Applicants request that this application be passed to issuance without further delay in view of the amendments herein and the remarks below.

In the outstanding Office Action the Examiner indicates that the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, does not appear to be an actual substitute specification stating “the specification is identical to the original specification. Indeed, there does not appear to be any change made to the original specification, except for the inclusion of a truncated Sequence listing.” Applicants disagree with this assertion by the Examiner.

As evidenced by the **enclosed copy** of the marked-up version of the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, amendments were in fact made and the substitute specification is not identical to the original specification. In particular, the Examiner is specifically referred to the following sections of the marked-up version of the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, as an example of sections that have been amended: page 1, line 8; page 2, line 28; page 3, lines 1, 7, and 9; page 4, lines 2, 7, 16, 20, and 21; page 5, lines 2 and 3; page 17, lines 8 and 14; page 25, line 9; page 30, lines 12 and 18; page 32, line 17; and page 36, lines 24 and 25. Since the Examiner does not offer any specific points of criticism or objection, but rather erroneously asserts that the substitute specification is identical to the original specification, no further amendment is believed to be necessary.

Applicants submit that the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, coupled with the following amendments is sufficient and this ground of objection should be withdrawn.

In addition, the Examiner has indicated that the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, needs to be amended to insert a description of Figures 2A and 2B, as well as to cancel the original Sequence Listing in favor of the substitute Sequence Listing filed on March 26, 2001. Accordingly, in the present amendment, Applicants have amended the substitute specification filed on July 24, 2003, to insert a description of Figures 2A and 2B and to cancel the original Sequence Listing in favor of the substitute Sequence Listing filed on March 26, 2001.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in full compliance with the U.S. patent rules and all outstanding issues have been addressed. Acknowledgment to this effect is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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